

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

12 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 December 1969

DD/I highlighted [] the aftermath of the Six-Day War, in that the Soviets are now requesting that Egypt sell back to them a number of T-54 and T-55 tanks.

Godfrey provided the Director with an informal memorandum on Kosygin's 10 December speech in which he apparently provided some endorsement of the Arab Fedayeen. He added that consideration will be given to publishing this memorandum following the Director's review.

Godfrey called attention to a report in describing the series of unpredictable events leading up to Kouandete's toppling of the Zinsou government in Dahomey. After a brief discussion the Director indicated that this report might be useful to PFIAB as an example of occasional difficulties in anticipating coups.

D/ONE reported that today is [] last day prior to leave before retirement. The Director expressed the hope that his calendar will permit him to see [] today.

Carver briefly noted the flurry of activity in Vietnam caused by unfounded coup rumors.

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The Director called attention to the AP story on the PHOENIX program in today's Washington Post and Baltimore Sun. He went on to ask whether a paper exists on the history of this program for use as a backgrounder for Congressional and press consumption if required. Carver indicated that such a paper may not exist but that, in response to the Director's request, one will be prepared today. The Director asked that a similar paper be developed on the PRU program.

The Director briefed on his session yesterday with Dr. Kissinger.

In response to the Director's question DD/I reported that Charles Sorrels will be here at 1200 on 15 December for a briefing on various collection efforts targeted at Soviet weapons. DD/I commented that he does not intend to get into budgetary data.

The Director repeated advice given USIB yesterday with respect to the desirability of careful attention to the uniformity of reporting on infiltration in Vietnam.

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L. K. White

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Senators to Go Report on Plan For Killing of VC Sympathizers

By George Bowen
Associated Press

BALTIMORE, Dec. 11 — A report by two former Army lieutenants stating they were instructed on hiring mercenaries to kill Vietcong sympathizers, "male or female civilians of any age," is being brought to the attention of U.S. senators.

The statement attributed to the officers claimed also they were told that frequent "resort to the most extreme forms of torture was necessary."

They said they were assigned to the "Phoenix program," which they were informed "sought to accomplish through capture, intimidation, elimination and assassination what the United States up to this time, was unable to accomplish through the conventional use of military power, i.e., to win the war."

The statement is on file in the U.S. District Court for Maryland in behalf of the lieutenants who sought and obtained Army discharges as conscientious objectors.

Francis T. Reitemeyer and Michael J. Cohn were attending a combat intelligence school at Ft. Holabird in Baltimore when they sought discharge after receiving orders for Vietnam last December and January.

William H. Zinman, their Baltimore lawyer, said today he is sending several senators a copy of a statement he filed last Feb. 14. It was a written offer to prove that each officer was told he "might actually be required to maintain a kill quota" of 50 Vietcong sympathizers a month and that this helped crystalize their "abhorrence to participation in war in any form."

Reitemeyer and Cohn, both about 25 years old, were not called to testify under oath on their allegations of hiring killers because Judge Frank A. Kaufman decided they had supported their conscientious objector claims without it.

Zinman said that, since the case no longer is pending he felt public attention should be directed to the proffer by the two former lieutenants in light of recent alleged massacre of Vietnam civilians.

He said he is having a copy delivered to Sens. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), John Stennis (D-Miss.) and Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) in hopes they will "be inclined to take a hard look" at it.

The paper for each petitioner stated:

"Your petitioner was informed that he would be one

of many Army officers designated as an adviser whose function it was to supervise and to pay with funds from an undisclosed source 18 mercenaries probably Chinese, none of whom would be officers or enlisted men of the U.S. military who would be explicitly directed by him and other advisers to find, capture, and -or kill as many Vietcong and Vietcong sympathizers within a given number of small villages as was possible under the circumstances.

"Vietcong sympathizers were meant to include any male or female civilian of any age in a position of authority or influence in the village who were politically loyal or simply in agreement with the Vietcong or their objectives.

"Frequently as related by the lecturing officers, resort to the most extreme forms of torture was necessary."

The proffer claimed a lecturer told of an occasion where a civilian suspected of being a sympathizer was killed, decapitated and dismembered and parts of the body "prominently displayed on his front lawn as a warning . . ."

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Press Item for the DCI

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PHOENIX 260

BALTIMORE, Md. AP - The commandant of an Army intelligence school at Ft. Holabird denied Friday charges that soldiers were instructed to hire mercenaries to kill Viet Cong sympathizers under a course called "Phoenix program."

Col. Marshal Fallwell, commandant of the U.S. Army Intelligence School at Ft. Holabird, called the charges by two former Army lieutenants "wild allegations."

A statement on file in the U.S. District Court for Maryland by Francis T. Reitemeyer and Michael J. CA Kisc 25.dsc

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A statement on file in the U.S. District Court for Maryland by Francis T. Reitemeyer and Michael J. Cohn the two former officers claimed they also were told that frequent "resort to the most extreme forms of torture was necessary."

Reitemeyer and Cohn said they were assigned to the "Phoenix program" which they were informed "sought to accomplish through capture, intimidation, elimination and assassination what United States up to this time, was unable to accomplish through the conventional use of military power . . ."

"As far as the school is concerned, there are no such massacre tactics taught or torture tactics taught," the colonel told newsmen during a two and one-half hour news conference at the Army base.

The Phoenix program is not sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency and does not have anything to do with CIA, Fallwell said.

The colonel charged the claims made by the two former officers "probably came from a Wall Street Journal article."

Reitemeyer and Cohn were attending a combat intelligence school at the base when they sought a discharge after getting orders to report to Vietnam last December and January.

William H. Zinman, Baltimore lawyer for the two, said this week he is sending a copy of their statement filed last Feb. 14 to several senators.

FM122pes Dec. 12

Comment: Follows up this mornings stories in the Sun and Post.
Goodwin has a copy.